for State Plan and through assistance under various Central sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The backwardness of States is taken into consideration by the Finance Commission while determining their award. The allocation of assistance for State Plans is based on the Gadgil-Mookherjee formula wherein eighty per cent weightage is given to population and per capita income below the national average. Besides the State Government can also avail of assistance available under various programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, infrastructure development and social security to improve the quality of life in backward Districts within the State.

Deposits in banks of Kutch District, Gujarat

2333. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of deposits with Schedule banks in Kutch District of Gujarat up till 30-9-2001;

(b) how much amount has been given as loan after earthquake *i.e.* 26-1-2000 to individuals for industries, trade, business; and

(c) what is the credit ratio in Kutch district only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the information available from Reserve Bank of India, the aggregate outstanding aggregate deposits of all scheduled commercial banks in the Kutch District of Gujarat State was Rs. 429309 lakhs as on the last Friday of June, 2001.

(b) As per the data furnished by Dena Bank, the SLBC Convenor bank for Gujarat State, banks have sanctioned total Rs. 21155.19 lakhs as fresh credit to the earthquake affected people of which Rs. 14096.50 lakh has been disbursed cumulatively upto 09-11-2001.

(c) As on the last Friday of June 2001 the credit deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks in the Kutch District was 10.86 per cent.

Whereabouts of company involved in embezzlement

†2334. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of all the efforts of the Department of Company Affairs there is no whereabouts of the companies who have embezzled 65 crores and 63 lakhs of rupees of the investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to return the bad debt amount of investors; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps for controlling corruption

2335. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to control the menace of corruption, especially in the Excise, Customs and Income-tax Services whose large number of officers have been suspended recently on such charges; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, the following steps are being taken/have been taken to check corruption :—

Vigilance set up in Central Board of Excise and Customs and Central Board of Direct Taxes are being strengthened. Directorate of Income-tax (Vigilance) has been strengthened by upgrading to the level of Directorate General of Income-tax (Vigilance) and four Regional Directorates of Income-tax (Vigilance) have been created. Use of information technology is being encouraged with a view to reduce the interface of the public with the Customs Officers. Instructions have been issued to the field formations of the Central Board of Excise and Customs to tighten vigilance machinery, to post officers of integrity and efficiency in vigilance organisation, not to give sensitive postings to officers of doubtful integrity and who have been charge-sheeted for major penalty and penalised and to keep a watch on the life-style of the officers, etc.